

Fellows Block Seminar

Monday, 25 September, 11:00-15:30

We look forward to the following presentations:

11:00-12:00 [Katja Makhotina, HHK Fellow \(book presentation\)](#)

Title: "Monastery and prison. Places of Confinement in Western Europe and Russia from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age", edited by Katja Makhotina, Falk Bretschneider, Natalia Muchnik, Martin Aust. Moscow 2022

Abstract: Are there many similarities between voluntary confinement in a monastery and forced imprisonment? To what extent were the different detention and punishment practices characteristic of medieval monastic communities adopted by modern penal institutions? What insights can be drawn from a comparison of Western and Eastern European experiences? The authors of this German-Russian-French publication, which was generously funded by the BCDSS, seek answers to these questions. The first part is devoted to monasteries as multifunctional places of detention, the second to the integration of the prison into urban space, and the third to the discourses and practices of deprivation of liberty in different temporal, national or institutional contexts. The contributions to this anthology do not constitute a history of progress from the Dark Ages to enlightened modernity: rather, the authors analyse individual spaces and modes of behaviour, comparing the Russian experience with the Western European one and finding unexpected commonalities.

12:30-13:15 [Ulbe Bosma, IISH Amsterdam \(project presentation\)](#)

Title: "The Global South in the Age of Early Industrial Capitalism: Commodity Frontiers and Social Transformations (1816-1870)"

Abstract: This project will go back to the pivotal decades when Europe recovered from the devastating Napoleonic wars, the Industrial Revolution picked up steam and global trade went through fifty years of rapid growth, a spurt even more spectacular than after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. Against this backdrop I plan to examine the immense transformative effects in terms of massive (often coerced) mobilisation of labour and land in the Global South that fed the rise of early industrial capitalism. I plan to assess these transformations via the seven most exported commodities from the Global South as the unit of analysis (sugar, cotton, coffee, tea, precious metals (gold/silver), opium and cereals).

13:30-14:15 [Emmanuel Saboro, University of Cape Coast \(project presentation\)](#)

Title: "Sites of Memory: Visuality and Metaphors of Slavery in Ghana"

Abstract: This book project in progress builds on an already vibrant body of scholarship on memory studies in Africa more generally but its basic premise is that much of the extant studies on Memories of Slavery in Africa deal with sites as heritage sites of slavery and focus more on

commemoration. My new book will demonstrate the complex ways in which the various sites and visual images of enslavement generate distinct metaphors central to the construction of history.

14:30-15:15 Behnaz Mirzai, Brock University (project presentation).

Title: "Narrative of the life of Mahboob: An enslaved African in Iran"

Abstract: I am currently preparing the autobiography of Mahboob for publication. The manuscript traces Mahboob's life from North African childhood, through the dreadful journey, to eventual freedom in Iran. The author reveals for the first time to readers the horrors of slavery and injustice as well as his life transformation in Iran. In addition to describing his childhood and experience of enslavement, his narrative offer insight into the political upheavals that shook Iran in the early decades of the twentieth century.

15:15-15:30 Stephan Conermann (wrap up).